

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 214688

51

ORIGIN SCCT-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSO-00 EA-11 SY-04 NSC-07 SS-20

L-03 USSS-00 EUR-25 INRE-00 A-01 SCA-01 INR-11 NSAE-00

AID-20 FBIE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 RSC-01 /124 R

DRAFTED BY S/CCT:LHOFFACKER:AF

APPROVED BY ARA-LA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

S/S-O:L.MATTESON

----- 062657

O 291547Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

CIA IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON CASE

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 3981 AND YOUR TELECON WITH SHLAUDEMAN

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. REFERENCE ASSESSMENT MOST HELPFUL IN UNDERSTANDING
CURRENT GODR STRATEGEM IN INCIDENT. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUM-
STANCES KNOWN TO US, WE CAN APPRECIATE MERIT OF BALAGUER'S
THINKING IN THAT FUTURE TERRORISM WILL BE DISCOURAGED IF
MENDEZ GANG SURRENDERS OR SETTLES FOR BANGKOK SOLUTION.
AT SAME TIME, WE ARE MOST SENSITIVE TO HEAVY CALCULATED
RISK TO HOSTAGES IN CURRENT PROCESS OF ATTEMPTING TO WEAR
DOWN TERRORISTS.

2. SHOULD UNFORESEEN FACTORS SUCH AS INTOLERABLE RISK TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 214688

AMERICAN HOSTAGE ENTER PICTURE, WE WOULD NATURALLY QUESTION

CURRENT PLAN AND INSIST UPON OTHER MORE PROFITABLE TACTICS VIS-A-VIS TERRORISTS. EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT ARE HANDICAPPED BY ONLY PARTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF SITUATION AND OF GODR'S, I.E. BALAGUER'S THINKING AS CASE EVOLVES. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT AS MINIMUM USG HAS RIGHT TO HAVE REGULAR ACCESS TO BALAGUER OR TO HIS DESIGNEE (DISCREET LIAISON LESS CONSPICUOUS THAN YOUR CALLS ON BALAGUER) IN BOTH THESE RESPECTS (SITUATION REPORTS AND STRATEGY). YOU SHOULD MAKE THIS POINT TO BALAGUER IN MANNER WHICH YOU DEEM MOST

APPROPRIATE WITH VIEW TO REESTABLISHING EARLY AND CONTINUING LIAISON. IF NECESSARY, YOU MAY ASSURE HIM THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO LOOK TO GODR AS MANAGER OF RESCUE OPERATION AND SHALL DO NOTHING WHICH WOULD FURTHER JEOPARDIZE SECURITY OF HOSTAGES OR COMPLICATE GODR'S EFFORTS TO EFFECT THEIR SAFE RETURN. AT SAME TIME, YOU WILL NATURALLY WISH TO RESERVE RIGHT TO CONSULT WITH INDIVIDUALS RELATED TO CASE LIKE MOTHER OF MENDEZ AND ARCHBISHOP IN ORDER TO SUPPLEMENT BASIC INFORMATION FROM GODR. MOREOVER, USG WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE SUCH SUGGESTIONS AS WE BELIEVE MAY BE HELPFUL AND APPROPRIATE TO SUPPORT GODR RESCUE; ANY CRITICISM OF GODR IN THIS CONNECTION WILL THEREFORE BE CONSTRUCTIVE.

3. REQUEST YOUR THOUGHTS ON MERIT OF TRIPARTITE (USG, VENEZUELAN, AND SPANISH) DEMARCHE TO BALAGUER ALONG LINES OF PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH.

4. IN VIEW OF POTENTIALLY CRUCIAL FACTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH OF MENDEZ, DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO HELP EMBASSY IN ASSESSMENT OF REPORTS OF HIS REPORTED PARANOIA. WE ARE CONSULTING PSYCHIATRISTS HERE BUT URGENTLY NEED AS SPECIFIC DATA AS IS AVAILABLE ON MEDICAL OR OTHER INFORMED JUDGMENTS IN THIS RESPECT. CAN CLINICAL RECORDS BE OBTAINED FROM GODR OR PRIVATE SOURCES?

5. OTHER THOUGHTS ON WHICH WE WOULD WELCOME CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH EMBASSY:

A. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ASSURED THAT MENDEZ GANG IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 214688

AWARE OF THEIR APPARENT WAY OUT, I.E. BANGKOK SOLUTION. WE ARE FEARFUL THAT IF CURRENT BOTTLING UP OF VENEZUELA CONSULATE AND OCCUPANTS SHOULD RESULT IN MENDEZ ASSESSMENT THAT HE AND COHORTS ARE DOOMED THEY MAY TAKE DESPERATE ACTION WHICH WOULD FURTHER THREATEN HOSTAGES. IN YOUR DISCUSSION WITH BALAGUER OR GODR LIAISON, YOU MIGHT EXPLORE THE MERIT OF GIVING TERRORISTS CLEAR IDEA THAT THEY HAVE A SOLE SAFE EXIT FROM PRESENT IMPASSE -- RELEASE OF

HOSTAGES IN RETURN FOR THEIR FREEDOM ABROAD IN APPROPRIATE ASYLUM.

B. IS GODR IN CONTACT WITH TERRORISTS? DEPARTMENT ASSUMES THAT INFORMATION THROUGH SUCH CHANNELS AS MAY EXIST IN SUCH CONTACTS WILL BE SHARED WITH US.

C. HOW MUCH INFORMATION FROM OUTSIDE ARE TERRORISTS/ HOSTAGES RECEIVING? RADIO? OTHER CHANNELS? DOES GODR CONTEMPLATE USING RADIO TO BRING PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE TO BEAR ON TERRORISTS?

D. MOTHER OF MENDEZ HAS APPARENTLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BALAGUER IN CONNECTION WITH HIS RELEASE FROM JAIL. ASSUME THAT SHE REMAINS POTENTIALLY VALUABLE INTER-MEDIARY SHOULD GODR WISH TO USE HER TO INFLUENCE MENDEZ TO ACCEPT BANGKOK SOLUTION OR OTHERWISE.

E. ASSUME THAT MEDIATION COMMISSION, IN WHICH MENDEZ APPARENTLY RETAINS CONTINUED CONFIDENCE, IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR SIMILAR PURPOSE. YOUR CONTINUED CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF COMMISSION, IF APPROPRIATE, MIGHT BE USEFUL EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CASE AT MOMENT.

F. ASSUME THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE INITIATIVES WITH REGARD TO FOOD AND WATER FOR HOSTAGES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SUPPLY CHANNEL INTO COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY.

G. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THAT MENDEZ PROBABLY REGARDS HUTCHISON AS MOST VALUABLE HOSTAGE AND MAY WANT TO HOLD HER AS TRUMP CARD. NEVERTHELESS, HIS UNETHICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 214688

AND UNPRECEDENTED HOLDING OF HER AND TWO OTHER WOMEN CAN ONLY DEGRADE HIS ALREADY LOW PUBLIC RATINGS. IS THERE MERIT IN STIMULATING PUBLIC APPEAL FROM CHURCH, FAMILY, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE GROUP TO MENDEZ TO RELEASE WOMEN HOSTAGES FOR HUMANITARIAN AND SELF-INTEREST REASONS. ANY REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF HOSTAGES WOULD, OF COURSE, BE GOOD MOVE.

H. DEPARTMENT HAS DIFFICULTY VISUALIZING FLOOR PLAN OF DETENTION AND SURROUNDING AREAS. WOULD APPRECIATE OUTLINE OF SAME SO THAT WE MAY BE IN POSITION TO SUGGEST ADDITIONAL STRATEGEMS.

I. HOPE YOU CAN LEAN ON CHINESE EMBASSY OR OTHERS TO GET FULLEST AND EARLIEST DEBRIEFING OF LIBERATED CHINESE.

KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, MENTAL HEALTH, REPORTS, KIDNAPPING, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, HOSTAGES, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE214688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LHOFFACKER:AF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740275-0007
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974094/aaaaadbs.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SCCT
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTO DOMINGO 3981 AND YOUR TELECON, WITH SHLAUDEMAN
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUTCHISON CASE
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CI, US, (HUTCHINSON, BARBARA), (MENDEZ VARGAS)
To: SANTO DOMINGO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005